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BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

DARFUR – Humanitarian Emergency

Fact Sheet #11, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

June 25, 2004

Note: This report updates the last fact sheet dated June 18, 2004

BACKGROUND

- The humanitarian emergency in Darfur is a direct result of violence and harassment directed toward the Fur, Zaghawa, and Masaalit civilian groups by Government of Sudan (GOS) forces and GOS-supported militia groups collectively known as *Jingaweit*. In early 2003, the Sudanese Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) stated that they would engage in armed struggle to achieve full respect for human rights and an end to political and economic marginalization in Darfur. On April 24 and 25, 2003 the SLM/A attacked GOS military forces at El Fasher in North Darfur.
- Following this attack, GOS military forces and *Jingaweit* militia initiated a more coordinated campaign of violence against civilian populations, including aerial bombardments to kill, maim, and terrorize civilians who the GOS claimed were harboring opposition forces. Conflict-affected populations have described recurrent and systematic assaults against towns and villages, looting, burning of buildings and crops, destruction of water sources and irrigation systems, gang rape, and murders. Throughout late 2003, armed conflict intensified, as GOS military and *Jingaweit* clashed with the two main opposition groups – the SLM/A and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) – in Darfur.
- Following U.S. Government (USG) and European Union (EU) facilitated negotiations in N'Djamena, Chad, the two main opposition groups and the GOS signed a renewable 45-day humanitarian ceasefire on April 8 that took effect on April 11. This agreement included a GOS commitment to disarm *Jingaweit* militia groups and a protocol on providing humanitarian assistance in Darfur. The ceasefire agreement was renewed on May 22.
- Despite the ceasefire, *Jingaweit* violence against civilians continues in all three states of Darfur resulting in increasing displacement. Because the victims are displaced and vulnerable, they become targets of further violence. Even in villages where there is nothing left to burn, the fear of further violence continues to paralyze displaced populations, preventing voluntary returns. This cycle prevents many internally displaced persons (IDPs) from safely returning home, trapping them in camps or informal settlements for the foreseeable future. Out of an estimated population of 6.5 million in Darfur, approximately 2.2 million people are affected by the crisis, including more than 1 million IDPs and approximately 158,000 refugees who have fled into neighboring Chad.
- Humanitarian access to conflict-affected populations outside of the state capitals of Geneina, El Fasher, and Nyala was extremely limited until late May due to GOS impediments that blocked humanitarian access and relief operations. As a result of intense international pressure, the GOS lifted some of the restrictive travel regulations and announced a series of measures, effective May 24, to facilitate humanitarian access to Darfur. USAID's Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) and other humanitarian agencies have deployed additional staff to Darfur to increase emergency response capacity. However, several obstacles remain, including continued delays in obtaining visas for relief personnel, travel restrictions within Darfur, difficulties in clearing essential relief supplies and equipment through customs, and GOS interference in relief activities that address protection of civilians and human rights abuses.

CURRENT SITUATION

Increasing International Pressure against the Government of Sudan

- International pressure on the GOS to resolve the Darfur crisis increased dramatically this week. On June 24, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell announced plans to travel to Sudan on June 29 and 30 to urge the GOS to rein in militias responsible for the violence in Darfur. USAID Administrator Andrew S. Natsios will accompany Secretary Powell to Sudan to meet with GOS officials and assess the humanitarian situation on the ground in Darfur, including the condition of IDPs.
- United Nations (U.N.) Secretary General Kofi Annan has scheduled a three-day trip to Sudan and Chad beginning on June 30. The Secretary General's visit follows those of the Italian Deputy Foreign Minister, the French Deputy Foreign Minister, the Swiss Foreign Minister, the U.K. Secretary for the Department for International Development, and the chief executive of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- On June 23, USAID Administrator Natsios, accompanied by senior USAID officials, traveled to U.N. headquarters in New York to brief the Secretary General and other U.N. officials on the deepening crisis in Darfur.
- On June 21, African Union (AU) Commission Chairman Alpha Omar Konare concluded a two-day visit to Darfur to support implementation of a ceasefire agreement between the GOS and the two main opposition groups and to follow up on the AU commitment to send military observers to monitor the ceasefire. Three U.S. ceasefire monitors have joined the AU advance team in El Fasher. The team is gathering supplies and preparing for its first monitoring mission.

- Violent clashes between the *Jingaweit* and Chadian government forces have revived fears that the conflict in Darfur could spread into Chad and destabilize the situation there. On June 17, the U.N. reported that members of the *Jingaweit* fought with Chadian troops in Birak, a town 10 km inside Chad. Government of Chad (GOC) officials raised concerns that the *Jingaweit* are recruiting Chadian Arabs and lending support to the anti-government force, Renewed National Front of Chad (FNTR). On June 18, the GOC stated that Chad may reconsider its position as mediator in the Darfur conflict.

Continued Insecurity and Disruption of Relief Activities

- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reports that *Jingaweit* attacks occur regularly against the villages that surround Guildu and Gulu towns in the far north of South Darfur. WFP has been distributing food to these areas and reports that six villages have been destroyed in the past two weeks. As a result, IDPs have been steadily moving to Gulu where the population near the towns faces critical shortages of health services and water.
- On June 19, Sudan's President ordered a "complete mobilization" of GOS agencies to disarm all illegal armed groups in Darfur and prevent any groups from crossing into neighboring Chad. The President's announcement came in response to GOC complaints about *Jingaweit* incursions into Chadian territory. Although the GOS statement is a welcome development, humanitarian agencies are concerned by the growing indications in several IDP concentration areas that the *Jingaweit* are being incorporated into the GOS military and police forces and serving as camp security.

Humanitarian Access

- According to a Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) assessment, more than 80,000 IDPs have sought refuge in the town of Mornei in West Darfur. MSF reports that 200 people are dying every month in Mornei, and conditions are expected to deteriorate rapidly without immediate large-scale assistance. Due to ongoing attacks around the IDP camps, residents are entirely dependent on external assistance. However, feeding the residents of Mornei will require 1,200 metric tons (MT) of food every month transported on sandy roads that will become even more difficult to navigate during the rainy season.
- USAID's Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) Darfur Rain Monitoring and Seven Day Forecast Report on the current seasonal rains indicates the possibility of heavier rains in West Darfur and the southern part of North Darfur in the coming days. FEWS NET reports that once seasonal rains start in the region, much of eastern Chad will be cut off. While large towns in Darfur may be accessible, surrounding areas will be difficult to access. Rains have already begun in most of South Darfur and parts of West Darfur. Within the next two weeks, the rains are expected to start in all of West Darfur and parts of North Darfur including El Fasher. Within one to two weeks, rains will also likely start over Abéché in Chad. Humanitarian priorities include providing refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) with shelter and pre-positioning or distributing relief supplies to last through the rainy season.
- On June 22, the USAID/DART Field Officer traveled north of Geneina to Kondobo and Sirba, to monitor deliveries of food, plastic sheeting, blankets, and soap. As in most locations, the registration figures used for distributions do not reflect actual IDP numbers on the ground and a new re-registration campaign is a critical need.
- In Sirba, a local Sheik told the USAID/DART that nearly all of the IDPs had come from the village of Abu Gharain (30 km east of Sirba) and estimated that 1,400 new IDPs had arrived in Sirba over the past three weeks. During the USAID/DART visit, a group of 20 women and children arrived on foot from Abu Gharain. These new arrivals told the USAID/DART that harassment by *Jingaweit* continues, and that four young women between the ages of 14 and 17 years had been raped in the last few weeks. The group reported that the only people remaining in Abu Gharain were disabled or too old to travel. One of the young women who had been raped showed marks/scars across her back from being whipped by the *Jingaweit*. When asked about the small number of men present, the Sheik reported that many had been killed.

Human Rights Abuses Documented

- On June 23, Physician for Human Rights (PHR) issued a report of human rights and humanitarian law violations perpetrated against civilians in Darfur. Based on field assessments along the Chad/Darfur border and testimonies by victims and eyewitnesses in Chad and Darfur, PHR developed a list of indicators of genocide that shows an organized intent to affect group annihilation in Darfur. Indicators documented by PHR include consistent patterns of attacks on villages, destruction of villages, destruction of livelihoods and means of survival, pursuit with intent to eradicate villagers, targeting of non-Arabs, and systematic rape of women.

Food Assistance

- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) in El Fasher plans to distribute approximately 5,500 metric tons (MT) of food to 282,000 beneficiaries in North Darfur during June. Currently, WFP/El Fasher has approximately 5,500 MT of food stockpiled in three locations in Darfur. WFP predicts that the rains will only limit access in North Darfur between July 20 and September 10. While a number of locations are still inaccessible due to U.N. security constraints, and GOS travel restrictions in SLM/A-controlled areas, WFP/El Fasher's logistics officer has ensured that WFP commodities are pre-positioned in and around North Darfur.

Health

- On June 22, epidemiologists from the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) Global Polio Eradication Initiative warned that west and central Africa were on the brink of the largest polio epidemic in recent years. A major epidemic this autumn during the polio "high season" would leave thousands of African children paralyzed for life due to the fact that less than half of the children in west and central Africa are routinely immunized.

- According to WHO, a five year old girl in Habila Locality, West Darfur was diagnosed with polio on May 20, the first case of the disease in Sudan in more than three years. This diagnosis was confirmed by the National Laboratory, the regional WHO Laboratory, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta as positive for wild polio virus. Following the polio diagnosis, extensive investigations were carried out and community surveys of cases and immunization status were conducted. WHO concluded that the case is imported from Chad via northern Nigeria. At present, necessary response activities have been carried out and mopping-up vaccinations are planned for July/August 2004.

Refugees in Eastern Chad

- The U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates there are at least 160,000 Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad. Some 110,000 have been transported, or spontaneously move to, eight established refugee camps. Sudanese refugees are currently in an exceptionally remote, hot, and arid region of Chad that is difficult to access logistically. The border areas remain extremely dangerous and there are few available water sources. Firewood is scarce in most locations. The rainy season will make some refugee camps inaccessible to re-supply by trucks from July-September.
- UNHCR continues to work towards improving services within the camps, where in some instances population growth has outpaced the provision of services. Water and sanitation are particular concerns. An estimated 25,000 refugees living along the border in the Bahay/Cariari area continue to live in precarious conditions. UNHCR revised its budget in early June from \$20.8 million to \$55.8 million but donor response to UNHCR appeals has been weak. On June 24, President George W. Bush approved a drawdown of \$14 million from the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance fund to augment funding for the crisis. Contributions will go to UNHCR for Sudanese refugee assistance in Chad, ICRC for its expanded emergency work in Darfur and Chad, and to NGOs and emergency administrative expenses.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

- Over the past year, USAID has deployed field staff to Sudan specifically to assess the extent of the Darfur crisis. On April 11, to respond to the increasing scale of humanitarian needs, USAID mobilized a USAID/DART. Several USAID/DART members have deployed to Darfur, and USAID continues a phased deployment of humanitarian personnel as official access and improved security allow for an increased presence in the region. As of June 10, eight USAID/DART members have deployed to newly established field offices in El Fasher, Geneina, and Nyala. USAID/DART field officers are attending humanitarian meetings, monitoring the delivery and distribution of relief commodities, and participating in assessments with implementing partners throughout accessible areas of Darfur.
- The DART, led by personnel from USAID/OFDA, is complemented by a Response Management Team (RMT) in Washington that is supporting field operations and providing a point of contact for coordination and information regarding the USG's humanitarian response in Darfur.
- On June 24, the U.S. Senate passed \$95 million in emergency humanitarian assistance to address the crisis in Darfur and the refugee situation in Chad. The funding was approved as an amendment to a military appropriations bill.
- To date, USAID has delivered a total of 7,050 rolls of plastic sheeting, 117,500 blankets, 2 water bladders, and 600 jerry cans via 17 airlifts to Nyala. USAID's contribution of plastic sheeting will provide shelter for approximately 444,150 beneficiaries. The total value of the commodities, including transportation costs, was nearly \$3.4 million.
- Since February 2003, USAID has provided nearly \$17.4 million to U.N. agencies and NGOs, including CARE, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Medair, Save the Children-UK (SC-UK), and SC-US for emergency health, water and sanitation, agriculture, food security, shelter, logistics, and coordination activities. Proposals from additional relief organizations are under review.
- Since October 2003, USAID has provided nearly \$82.9 million to WFP for Darfur for 86,700 MT of food commodities, including cereals, cooking oil, pulses, and blended foods. USAID has also contributed \$4.8 million to WFP for Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad, including 7,040 MT of mixed commodities already in the region.
- USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) has provided more than \$96,000 to IRC for IDP assistance activities in Darfur. Such initiatives may include support for peace and reconciliation interventions and strengthening of Sudanese civil society organizations. In addition, OTI has deployed an IDP advisor as a member of the USAID/DART.
- Based on the severity of the humanitarian situation in eastern Chad, especially the increasing demand for potable water in both the refugee camps and within towns and villages in eastern Chad, U.S. Ambassador Marc M. Wall declared a disaster in Chad on June 24. USAID/OFDA immediately provided \$114,000 through the U.S. Embassy in N'Djamena to UNICEF to improve the surface water during the July to September rainy season for 5,000 vulnerable host-country families (approximately 25,000 people) whose resources and livelihoods have been taxed by the heavy influx of refugee populations. Provision of water purification kits will decrease morbidity and mortality of targeted populations.
- On May 21, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) approved an additional contribution of \$1.2 million to UNHCR in response to its emergency appeal for Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad. This brings State/PRM's total contribution to date of \$6,912,972 to the UNHCR appeal for Chad, including \$712,972 provided during FY 2003.
- In FY 2003 and FY 2004, State/PRM has provided more than \$12.2 million to UNHCR, WFP, the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Society (IFRC), AirServ International, International Medical Corps (IMC), and IRC for emergency refugee assistance activities in eastern Chad.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DARFUR EMERGENCY

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
DARFUR, SUDAN			
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CARE	Health, Water and Sanitation, Logistics, Coordination	Darfur	\$1,513,957
CHD	Mediation	Darfur	\$267,709
IRC	Health, Water and Sanitation	North Darfur	\$473,736
Medair ²	Health, Water and Sanitation, Non-Food Commodities, IDP Assistance	West Darfur	\$1,103,000
SC-UK ²	Water and Sanitation	North Darfur	\$605,602
SC-US	Health, Nutrition, Shelter	West Darfur	\$2,644,830
UN FAO ²	Food Security, Agriculture	Darfur	\$465,000
UNICEF	Health, Water and Sanitation	Darfur	\$1,724,830
UNJLC	Coordination	Darfur	\$150,000
UN OCHA	Coordination	Darfur	\$500,000
UNSECOORD	Security Officers	Darfur	\$400,000
WFP	Flight Operations	Darfur	\$900,000
WHO	Health, Coordination	Darfur	\$250,000
Various	Relief Commodities	Darfur	\$3,349,300
Various	Airlift Operations	Darfur	\$1,209,522
	Administrative/Logistics	Darfur	\$1,832,999
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$17,390,485
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	86,700 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Darfur	\$82,870,800
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$82,870,800
USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE			
IRC	IDP Assistance	North Darfur	\$96,205
TOTAL USAID/OTI			\$96,205
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DARFUR.....			\$100,357,490
EASTERN CHAD			
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			
U.S. Embassy Chad	Water Purification and Soap	Eastern Chad	\$114,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$114,000
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	7,040 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$4,800,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$4,800,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EASTERN CHAD.....			\$4,914,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE³			
AirServ	Refugee Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$1,590,350
IFRC	Refugee Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$400,000
IMC	Refugee Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$877,098
IRC	Refugee Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$432,552
UNHCR ²	Refugee Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$6,912,972
WFP	Refugee Food Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$2,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM.....			\$12,212,972
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EASTERN CHAD			\$17,126,972
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DARFUR AND EASTERN CHAD⁴			\$117,484,462

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents committed amounts as of June 25, 2004.

²Totals include some funding obligated during FY 2003.

³State/PRM figures do not include un-earmarked Africa-wide contributions to ICRC and UNHCR.

⁴Total funding dates from February 2003, including total contributions to Darfur, Sudan and to eastern Chad.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for their humanitarian emergency response efforts in Darfur, Sudan can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they: allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information on making donations and volunteering can be found at:
 - U.S. Agency for International Development: www.usaid.gov – keyword: donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org
 - InterAction: www.interaction.org -> “How You Can Help”
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.org